



Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office Opens

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and Deputy Secretary of Defense John J. Hamre today officially opened the Department of Defense's Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office during DoD Electronic Commerce Day events at Defense Logistics Agency headquarters, Ft. Belvoir, Va. Electronic commerce is one of the best business practices identified in the Defense Reform Initiative, announced by Cohen last November to streamline the management and support structure of the Department of Defense.

The program office, formed in January 1998, is chartered to accelerate the use of electronic commerce within the Department of Defense. It brings together experts from DoD's business and technology arenas to jointly develop electronic commerce processes.

"The Joint Electronic Commerce Program Office will help to take defense business operations into the 21st century – in addition to improving efficiency and reducing costs," said Hamre. "By capitalizing on 'the revolution in business affairs,' we can help pay for the 'revolution in military affairs' and expand the use of electronic catalogs and electronic shopping malls," he added.

The JECPO is organized under both DLA and the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and receives policy guidance from the DoD Chief Information Officer. Lt. Gen. Henry T. Glisson, DLA director, and Lt. Gen. David J. Kelley, DISA director, defined their agencies' roles in the project. DLA will take the lead for business developments. It will coordinate the full business cycle requirements and functional integration, identify best business practices, and work with private industry outreach, among other measures. DISA's role is to lead the technical architecture, coordinate standards, and develop enterprise licensing. It will also conduct tests, carry out technical integration, and handle systems engineering.

The office will have points of contact with each of the Services and agencies to help coordinate electronic commerce programs. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service will be represented at the JECPO owing to the importance of electronic commerce in the Department's financial reforms.

Co-directors of the JECPO will be Scottie Knott of DLA and Diann McCoy of DISA. The office will draw its resources and manpower from both DISA and DLA, and is formally located in the Jefferson Building in Tysons Corner, Va.

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news> on the Internet.